

REMARKS

Claims 4-8, as amended, and new claim 9 and 10 are before the Examiner for consideration.

Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to recite a polymer insulator apparatus including a rectangular structure having plural polymer post insulators, a supporting structure and a plate member, wherein a first end of each polymer post insulator is connected to the supporting structure, and a second end of each polymer post insulator is connected to the plate member. See applicant's specification at page 8, lines 13-15 and Fig. 2 for support of such features.

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended more clearly to recite method steps, and to recite connecting a second end of each plural polymer post insulator such that the plural polymer post insulators are parallel to each other and normal to the supporting structure. Support therefore appears in the specification at page 8, lines 13-15 and Fig. 2. Claim 8 has been reworded to make reference to "vertical" and "horizontal" more understandable. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Serial No.: 10/719,017

New claims 9 and 10 recite that the supporting structure is configured for operating with an electric power transmission line. See the specification at page 1, lines 11-12, and page 8, line 10 for support for this feature.

1. The drawings were objected to for allegedly not illustrating all of the claim elements; specifically the Examiner stated that Figs. 1-3 must be changed to show the rigid bodies recited in claims 2, 3 and 6. Applicant submits that no changes to Figs. 1-3 are necessary because applicant's specification at page 10, line 18, describes a "rigid rectangular structure" defined by two intervening polymer insulators 1 each having a first holding member 6 attached to plate member 12, and a second holding member 6 attached supporting structure 13, which are shown in Figs. 2 and 3, and further described at page 8, first and second full paragraphs. Accordingly, contrary to the comment in the Office Action, the rigid bodies of claims 2 and 3 (now recited in claim 6) are shown in Figs. 2 and 3, and therefore no changes to the drawings

Serial No.: 10/719,017

are necessary. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

2. The Abstract has been amended as required.

3. Claims 1 and 5 were objected to for certain stated informalities. Claim 1 has been cancelled, thereby mooting its objection, and claim 5 has been amended by replacing "wherein" with "comprising."

4. Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Sakich et al. U.S. Patent 5,444,429. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled, thereby mooting their rejection. Claim 4 patentably defines over the reference.

The presently claimed polymer insulator apparatus is a rectangular structure having plural polymer post insulators, a supporting structure and a plate member, wherein a first end of each polymer post insulator is connected to the supporting structure, and a second end of each polymer post insulator is

Serial No.: 10/719,017

connected to the plate member. This arrangement is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited reference.

Sakich '429 is said to show plates 216 and 294 corresponding to rigid bodies attached to either end of two insulators 214 and arranged in parallel. However, Sakich '429 differs from the presently claimed invention in at least two significant ways. First, Sakich '429 does not disclose a polymer insulator apparatus having a rectangular structure, as recited in applicant's claim 4. Applicant's specification, page 8, lines 13-15 and Fig. 2, describe applicant's invention as having a rectangular structure, and page 8, last paragraph to page 9, end of first full paragraph, describes the relationship between the rectangular shape and the objective of withstanding a desired tensile load on the upper polymer post and a desired compressive load on the lower polymer post, without necessitating an increased diameter of the post insulators, as would be the case with prior art polymer posts. Thus, applicant's claimed rectangular configuration defined by at least two polymer posts, the supporting structure and plate

Serial No.: 10/719,017

member, achieves results not possible with prior art polymer post arrangements.

Sakich '429 also differs from the presently claimed invention because Sakich '429 does not disclose a first end of each polymer post insulator connected to the supporting structure and a second end of each polymer post insulator connected to the plate member. Instead, Sakich '429, column 7, lines 44-50 and Fig. 11, discloses top mounting plate 290 rigidly connected to the upper ends of insulators 214 and a bottom plate 294 rigidly coupled to the lower ends of insulators 214, wherein bottom plate 294 is connected to a grounded support member as described at Sakich '429, column 8, lines 14-15. Sakich '429 does not disclose a first end of each polymer post insulator connected to the supporting structure, and a second end of each polymer post insulator connected to the plate member, as recited in applicant's claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Sakich '429 fails to disclose all elements of applicant's claimed invention, and therefore is not a proper basis for rejection under §102. And, there is no disclosure or teaching in Sakich '429 that would have suggested

Serial No.: 10/719,017

the desirability of modifying any portions thereof effectively to suggest applicant's presently claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

5. Claims 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sakich '429 and Ramos et al. U.S. Patent 5,091,616. The rejection is traversed.

The presently claimed method for mounting plural polymer post insulators on a supporting structure includes (1) providing a supporting structure and plural polymer post insulators; (2) connecting a first end of each plural polymer post insulator to the supporting structure; and (3) connecting a second end of each plural polymer post insulator such that the plural polymer post insulators are parallel to each other and normal to the supporting structure. This method is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited references.

The Examiner admits that that Sakich '429 does not disclose connecting the polymer post insulators such that the axial direction of the plural post insulators is horizontal and cites

Serial No.: 10/719,017

Ramos '616 as allegedly teaching same. But, as already explained, Sakich '429 does not disclose a polymer insulator apparatus having a rectangular structure, and stated in terms of the wording of method claim 5, Sakich '429 does not disclose connecting a second end of each plural polymer post insulator such that the plural polymer post insulators are parallel to each other and normal to the supporting structure. Also, as previously explained, Sakich '429 does not disclose connecting a first end of each plural polymer post insulator to the supporting structure.

Ramos '616 does not overcome the deficiencies of Sakich '429 for the following reasons. Ramos '616, Figs. 1, 3 and 4, discloses interrupter 70 having an insulator 136 having two leg portions at right angles to each other and a support insulator 165, wherein one leg of insulator 136 and one end of insulator 165 are connected to support base 116. Support base 116 is connected to tubular support member 24 (Fig. 1), which is separate from the assembly 100 including insulators 136 and 165, as shown in Ramos '616, Fig. 1. Thus, Ramos '616 does not disclose insulators 165 and 136 connecting directly to the

Serial No.: 10/719,017

supporting structure 24, itself, as recited in applicant's claim

5. Ramos '616 does not teach applicant's method of (1) providing a "supporting structure" and plural polymer post insulators, in combination with (2) connecting a first end of each plural polymer post insulator to the supporting structure.

Also, Ramos '616, while showing one leg portion of post 136 being parallel to post 165, and another leg portion of post 136 and post 165 being oriented normal to base plate 116, does not teach applicant's further step of (3) connecting a second end of each plural polymer post insulator such that the plural polymer post insulators are parallel to each other and normal to the supporting structure, because such supporting structure is not involved as the posts are connected to base plate 116, which in turn is connected to support 24.

For the foregoing reasons, neither Sakich '429 nor Ramos '616 contains any teaching, suggestion, reason, motivation or incentive that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to applicant's claimed invention. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in either of these references that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof

Serial No.: 10/719,017

effectively to suggest applicant's presently claimed invention. Claims 6-8, which depend from claim 5, are allowable for the same reasons explained herein for claim 5. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

All claims 4-10 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 4-10 is respectfully requested.

Serial No.: 10/719,017

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicant would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicant's undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

July 30, 2004  
Date



Charles A. Wendel  
Registration No. 24,453  
Robert N. Wieland  
Registration No. 40,225

CAW:RNW/mhs

Attorney Docket No.: PRON:002

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.  
1421 Prince Street, Suite 210  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805  
Telephone: (703) 739-0220

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS  
AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT  
OR CREDIT FEES TO  
DEP. ACCT. 16-0331  
PARKHURST & WENDEL